

ASSOCIAÇÃO ANGOLANA PARA AVES E NATUREZA

2013 RELATÓRIO ANUAL/ANNUAL REPORT

Compilado por/Compiled by Michael Mills



O Turaco de Angola *Tauraco erythrolophus* é a ave nacional do país, um ícone para a conservação em Angola e o emblema da Associação Angolana para Aves e Natureza.

Red-crested Turaco is the National Bird of Angola, an icon for conservation in Angola and the emblem of the Associação Angolana para Aves e Natureza.

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Resumo

No decorrer deste ano os nossos dois projectos principais avançaram a bom ritmo: no Monte Moco a plantação de árvores acelerou e o viveiro foi aumentado; em Kumbira, a Aimy Cáceres levou a cabo uma expedição de sete semanas. Para além disso, teve lugar o primeiro encontro oficial da Associação Angolana Para Aves e Natureza com o objectivo de iniciar o processo de registo da Associação como ONG, foi publicada a primeira lista das aves de Angola, e uma nova espécie de primata (galago) foi confirmada por membros do Nocturnal Primate Research Group (Grupo de Investigação de Primatas Nocturnos da Oxford Brooke University, Reino Unido). Vários artigos científicos foram publicados e iniciou-se o trabalho de exploração/inventariação das florestas da escarpa norte (parte de um projecto financiando pela BirdLife South Africa).

Summary

This year saw good progress with our two main projects: at Mount Moco tree planting was accelerated and the nursery expanded, and at Kumbira seven weeks of field study were undertaken by Aimy Cáceres. Additionally, the first official meeting of the Associação Angolana Para Aves e Natureza (the Angolan Association for Birds and Nature) was held to commence the registration of an NGO, a first annotated birder's checklist of Angolan birds with English and Portuguese names was published, and during a field trip a new species of primate (bushbaby) was confirmed by members of the Nocturnal Primate Research Group, Oxford Brookes University, U. K. Other highlights of the year were the publication of several papers and the start of field surveys in the northern escarpment forests (part of a project funded by BirdLife South Africa).



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ACTIVITIES DURING 2013

MOUNT MOCO PROJECT (WWW.MOUNTMOCO.ORG)

During the year three field visits were made to Mount Moco, with short reports produced after each visit (email Michael for copies if you wish to receive these). In January, Michael Mills (joined by Katie Reese) visited Kanjonde/Mount Moco to monitor progress with the nursery. During this visit 86 saplings were planted from the nursery back on the mountain (see photograph below) and more than 300 new saplings were planted into an expanded nursery. Then in May, Michael Mills, Francisco Maiato and Rui Marcão monitored nursery progress, used organic insecticides to reduce insect infestation and cleared a new area planting in November. Finally, in November Michael Mills and Michael Rogerson planted an extra 31 trees in the new area cleared in May, checked on all plants in the nursery and cleared new areas for planting/rehabilitation. During all visits planted trees were measured in order to monitor growth.



Progress with forest rehabilitation can be summarised as follows:

1. A total of 117 trees were planted back on the mountain during the year, bringing the total to 139 trees. Of these, all but one have survived.
2. At the end of November the nursery held over 300 healthy saplings; most of these were planted into the nursery in January.
3. Measurements of the planted saplings were made during three field visits in order to monitor growth.
4. A more hands-off approach to forest rehabilitation is being tested; areas are being cleared of fire-prone plant growth to keep fire out and give trees a better chance of growing. It is hoped that this method will provide employment to more people in the village and accelerate the forest rehabilitation project.

With regards to the Vesto Fuel Efficient stoves, Michael has been trying since the end of 2010 to get an order of 80 stoves produced. The production of the stoves was finally completed in September 2013. They have been paid for and are currently being shipped to Angola; Michael took collection of them in November. We aim to distribute them among the community in 2014.

Funding for this year's Mount Moco activities came from APLORI and a grant from The Rufford Small Grants Foundation. Michael Rogerson of CGG is applying for more project funding from CGG, who supported the project in 2011.

KUMBIRA FOREST PROJECT (By Aimy Cáceres)

This year Aimy Cáceres spent 7 weeks in the field at Kumbira forest in June/July. She was assisted by Michael Mills (10 days of bird surveys), Martim Melo (2 weeks of radio tracking) and Ricardo Lima (4 weeks of radio tracking). Funding for field work was provided by APLORI, the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, Club 300, the BOU and Chicago Zoological Society.

During fieldwork, 50 bird point counts and associated habitat surveys were conducted. A total of 54 forest bird species were detected during these point counts. A radio tracking pilot study was also undertaken to assess whether this methodology could be used to assess the home-range and habitat use of endemic birds. Two Gabela Akalat and two Gabela Bush-shrike were captured and tagged and their locations tracked every two hours for 10 days. In 2014 more Gabela Akalat will be tagged and tracked.

Slash-and-burn agriculture continues to be a threat at Kumbira, and it appears that production now includes export of products to Luanda. Selective logging with chain saws is also taking place for the first time, and is a near and potentially severe threat. We continue to talk to local authorities in Conda regarding the establishment of a reserve here and also continue to highlight the importance of the area; Martim Melo and Aimy Cáceres were filmed and interviewed by Television Channel RTP Africa for the tourism program “Escapadelas em Angola” (Getaways in Angola).

<http://www.escapadelasemangola.com/alive/index.php/programas/episodios-15-19/pgm-18>

For 2014, Aimy, Michael and Francisco have submitted an application to the Conservation Leadership Programme for a second round of funding, which will focus on some of the work outlined above plus start a pilot nursery, raise local environmental awareness and build local capacity. A blog with information about the project and the Angolan Scarp Forest has been created and is updated on a regular basis. <http://kumbiraforest.blogspot.pt/>

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Jan: Michael Mills visited the Lubango Bird Skin Collection in Lubango to study various skins in the collection. A brief report was produced.
2. Feb: Michael Mills led an overnight birding outing for the Angola Field Group to Cuanza Norte province.
3. May: Michael Mills visited the Natural History Museum at Tring, U. K., to study various Angolan specimens in the collection. A short report was produced.

4. May: Michael Mills visited Lisbon to assist the IICT (Tropical Science Institute) with verifying certain Angolan bird specimens in their collection, as part of an exercise to electronically catalogue the collection and make it available online. A paper on this is in press.
5. May: Michael Mills, Aimy Cáceres and Francisco Maiato addressed biology students of the Science Faculty at the Agostinho Neto University in Luanda. Michael delivered a talk entitled “Bird Research and Conservation in Angola” and invited all students to contact him if they were interested in studying birds.
6. Jun: Michael Mills and Martim Melo electronically published a revised Checklist of the Birds of Angola with Portuguese names. This is available for free on the Birds Angola website.
7. June: Michael Mills addressed scholars at the Luanda International School on bird migration.
8. Aug: Michael Mills visited Benfica Market in Luanda to assess trade in wildlife products. A brief report was produced and circulated.
9. Sep: Michael Mills hosted three members of the Nocturnal Primate Research Group from Oxford Brookes University, U. K. (including world authority on bushbabies, Simon Bearder) for a two weeks field trip. This visit confirmed a new species of bushbaby in the escarpment forests and vastly improved our knowledge of nocturnal primates in Angola. It is hoped that this will strengthen the case for protecting these forests. Various research outputs from this visit are in preparation.
10. Sep: Michael Mills was interviewed in Luanda by Vanessa Strauss of SANCOB regarding setting up a national oiled wildlife response network.
11. Sep-Dec: Michael Mills has been preparing a book on the common birds of Luanda to be published in 2014. Martim Melo will translate it to Portuguese.
12. Nov: Michael Mills organised the first official meeting of the Angolan Association for Birds and Nature as the first step in getting the association registered. Bruna Campos and Henriette Koning have been helping with the registration process. It is expected to take at least another 12 months before the NGO is registered.
13. Nov: Michael Mills led a three-day field trip to Cuanza Norte for the Angolan Field Group and Angolan Association for Birds and Nature.
14. Nov: Michael Mills addressed scholars at the Luanda International School on the characteristics of birds.

15. Nov: Katie Reese assisted The Red-footed Falcon Workgroup to monitor potential roost sites of Red-footed Falcon in the vicinity of Huambo.
16. Nov: Michael Mills presented a summary on the Mt Moco project to the Administration of Ussoque District, translated by Francisco Maiato.
17. Nov: Michael Mills led an overnight field outing for members of the Angola Field Group to Cuanza Norte province.

TARGETS: 2013 AND 2014

MAIN TARGETS SET FOR 2013 IN THE 2012 REPORT WITH COMMENTS

1. Continue working with the community at Kanjonde/Mt Moco. **This was successfully done.**
2. Plant 50 more trees at Mount Moco. **This target was surpassed, with 117 trees planted.**
3. If at all possible, repair damage to the nursery constructed at Mount Moco in May, or make alternative arrangements to expand the nursery. **Structural damage to the nursery was too severe to mend so two smaller nursery areas were established inside a small patch of forest. Plants are doing well in the new nurseries. The combined capacity of the nursery is approximately 300 trees.**
4. Deliver the shipment of 80 fuel efficient stoves to Kanjonde. **Stove production was only completed in September. Stoves are currently being shipped to Luanda and we plan to distribute them in 2014.**
5. Aimy Cáceres to spend 2-3 months in the field at Kumbira, and Michael to assist her for at least 10 days at the start of this field work. **Executed as planned.**
6. Michael to visit the Lubango Bird Skin Collection/ISCED to study some bird skins in the collection. **Done and a report written.**
7. Successfully register a bird conservation society in Angola. **The first official meeting was held and the process of registration is now in motion although it may take many months still to be completed.**

8. Conduct a second bird training workshop for Angolans. **A short lecture on Bird Conservation in Angola was delivered to the Biology department in the Science Faculty of Agostinho Neto University in Luanda. Michael has offered to do further lecturing to students but this offer has not been taken up.**
9. Deliver on all planned publication outputs. **See outputs list for details.**
10. Continue to engage various Angolan individuals and organisations in our work. **Our work this year involved ISCED Lubango, Agostinho Neto University, The Administration of Conda District, The Administration of Ussoque District and The Angola Field Group.**
11. Publish a revised Angola checklist with Portuguese names. **This was published in June.**

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2014

1. Plant 80 new trees at Mt Moco.
2. Expand nursery facilities at Mt Moco to hold up to 500 plants.
3. Maintain planted areas at Mt Moco.
4. Clear at least 2 hectares of dense thicket/shrubbery at Mt Moco in order to facilitate natural forest regeneration and exclude fire.
5. Deliver 80 Vesto Fuel Efficient Stoves to the village of Kanjonde.
6. Secure funding for the continuation of the Mt Moco project.
7. Aimy Cáceres to spend 2 months in the field at Kumbira, and Michael Mills to assist her for 10 days at the start of this field work.
8. Initiate an experimental nursery at Kumbira.
9. If not successful in registering the ASSOCIAÇÃO ANGOLANA PARA AVES E NATUREZA as an official Angolan NGO, then at least make significant progress with this process.
10. Publish a book on the common birds of Luanda in English and Portuguese.
11. Deliver on all planned publication outputs.
12. Continue to engage various Angolan individuals and organisations in our work.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS: 2013 AND 2014

PUBLICATION OUTPUTS 2013

1. Cáceres A, Santos P, Tchalo F, Mills M and Melo M. **2013**. Human use of natural resources and the conservation of the Afromontane forest in Mount Moco, Angola. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa* 15: 91-101.
2. Mills MSL and Dean WRJ. **2013**. The avifauna of the Lagoa Carumbo Important Bird Area, Angola. *Malimbus* 35: 77-92.
3. Mills MSL and Oschadleus HD. **2013**. Black-chinned Weaver *Ploceus nigrimentus* in Angola, and its nest. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 20: 60-66.
4. Mills MSL, Vaz Pinto P and Palmeirim JM. **2013**. First records for Angola of Yellow-throated Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*, South African Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon spilodera* and Red-tailed Leaflove *Phyllastrephus scandens*. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 20: 200-204.
5. Mills MSL. **2013**. The little-known Bocage's Sunbird *Nectarinia bocagii*: an Angolan near-endemic. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 20: 80-88.
6. Stavrou C and Mills MSL. **2013**. Observations of Birds of the Soyo area, north-west Angola. *Malimbus* 35: 27-36.
7. Monteiro M, Reino L, Beja P, Mills MSL, Bastos-Silveira C, Ramos M, Rodrigues D, Neves IQ, Consciência S and Figueira R. **In press**. The collection and database of Birds of Angola hosted at IICT. *Zootaxa*.

PUBLICATIONS PLANNED FOR 2013 (AS IN THE 2012 REPORT) WITH COMMENTS

1. Svensson M, Bersacola E, Bearder S, Nijman V and Mills M. **In press**. Open sale of elephant ivory in Luanda, Angola. *Oryx*.
2. Mills MSL and Dean WRJ. **In press**. The avifauna of the Lagoa Carumbo Important Bird Area, Angola. *Malimbus*. **Published**.
3. Mills MSL. **In press**. The little-known Bocage's Sunbird *Nectarinia bocagii*: an Angolan near-endemic. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. **Published**.

4. Mills MSL, Vaz Pinto P and Palmeirim JM. **In press.** First records of Yellow-throated Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*, South African Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon spilodera* and Red-tailed Leaflove *Phyllastrephus scandens* for Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. **Published.**
5. Stavrou C and Mills MSL. **In press.** Observations of Birds of the Soyo area, north-west Angola. *Malimbus*. **Published.**
6. Dean WRJ, Franke U, Joseph G, Gonçalves FM, Mills MSL, Milton SJ, Monadjem A and Oschadleus HD. **Submitted.** Further breeding records for birds in Angola. *Durban Museum Notivates*. **Still submitted.**
7. Mills MSL and Oschadleus HD. **In press.** Black-chinned Weaver *Ploceus nigrimentus* in Angola, and its nest. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. **Published.**
8. Cáceres A, Santos P, Tchalo F, Mills MSL and Melo M. **Submitted.** Easter Island syndrome? Human resource use in the last Afromontane forest remnants of Mount Moco, Angola. *Biodiversity and Conservation*. **Published in another journal.**
9. Mills MSL, Gonçalves FM and Cáceres A. **In preparation.** Impacts of subsistence farming on forest avifauna: how threatened birds on the central Angolan escarpment respond to current agricultural practices. *Bird Conservation International* or similar. **In press with Oryx.**

PLANNED PUBLICATIONS FOR 2014

1. Svensson M, Bersacola E, Bearder S, Nijman V and Mills M. **In press.** Open sale of elephant ivory in Luanda, Angola. *Oryx*.
2. Mills MSL, Gonçalves FM and Cáceres A. **In press.** Impacts of subsistence farming on forest avifauna: how threatened birds on the central Angolan escarpment respond to current agricultural practices. *Oryx*.
3. Mills MSL. **In press.** Dusky Twinspot *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*, a new host species for indigobirds *Vidua* in Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*.
4. Mills MSL. **In press.** Observations of the rarely-seen aerial display of Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*.
5. Various publications on nocturnal primates in Angola based on 2013 field work.

6. Mills MSL. **In prep.** The use of vocalisation playbacks to enhance detectability of birds: a case study from the Angolan central escarpment forests.

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